



Turn this: My Biz Name



The  
**MACOMB DAILY**  
ONLINE EDITION



News

Classifieds

Community

Directory

Marketplace

My Zwire!

Home -> News -> Content

Monday 21 May, 2001

NEWS SEARCH

  
Advanced search

## Top Stories

### Low lake level may make weeds untouchable

By: Mitch Hotts, Macomb Daily Staff Writer

May 21, 2001



**Low lake levels and high weeds may add up to major environmental and recreation problems in Harrison Township this summer, said officials and homeowners.**

Property owners along Lake St. Clair and its canals fear another outbreak of weed growth that makes navigation nearly impossible.

What's worse, a weed harvester the state donated to Harrison Township cannot operate in low water levels that currently exist in the lake.

"The harvester will end up dragging on the bottom of the lake because the water levels are so low," said Randy McConnell, the township's utilities director. "And its maneuverability will be very limited."

Officials said the harvester requires a minimum of 3 feet of water to float, but levels in some canals are as shallow as 2 feet. Water levels are expected to be below average this summer.

"Without harvesting, there won't be any boat traffic in the bays this year," said Tom Hall, who lives on Lakeshore Drive. Hall added the weed problem has reduced property values in the area.

In 1995, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources gave Harrison Township the \$160,000 weed harvester to keep the shoreline navigable.

A year earlier, bacteria closed beaches and the weed problem entangled propellers. The decaying weeds also caused a stench and trapped wildlife.

Harrison Township Deputy Supervisor Rana Erbrick said the odor from the rotting weeds "is disgusting" on hot summer nights.

"These weeds never quit growing," said Erbrick. "They were introduced into the lake through the ballast of foreign ships and took over the native species. And they seem to really thrive in this water."

▼ News
Top Stories
Local News
Sports
Business
Entertainment
Editorial Page
Obituaries
Health
Home & Life
Outdoors & Boating
Taste
CommunityCalendar
Weather
Wire Services
National News
▶ Special Sections
▶ Classified Ads
▶ Newspaper in Education
▶ Echoes of Macomb
▶ Spelling Bee
▶ Voices
▶ Business Directory
▶ Our Newspaper
▶ Sports Wire!
▶ Fun and Games
▶ Personal Finance
▶ Consumer Guide
▶ Lifestyles

SECTION LINKS



A s  
kne  
a ba

SAVE  
Ch

He  
R  
(88

- Lake Levels - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Darren Bruce, another Lakeshore Drive homeowner, said the weeds were worse in 2000 than in previous years. He fears a repeat of the summer of 1994 -- and its impact on the local economy.

"Residents here would like to see the waterways maintained and not be a toilet," he said.


Harrison Township will try to locate a smaller harvester that would be able to cut a channel through the weeds, said Supervisor James Senstock.

Another possible solution, which some neighborhood associations are already using, is to kill the weeds with chemicals. But the process might not work in Lake St. Clair because the current moves too quickly, dispersing the agent.

©The Macomb Daily 2001

## Reader Opinions

Be the first person to voice your opinion on this story!

Back to top 



E-mail this story  
to a friend



Voice your opinion  
on this story

[Send us](#) your questions and comments about Macomb Daily Online.

Copyright © 1995-2000 PowerAdz.com, LLC. Zwire!, AdQuest, AdQuest Classifieds, AdQuest 3D ® are Trademarks of [PowerAdz.com, LLC](#). All Rights Reserved.